

With the elimination of the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) and realigning of non-hospital support functions, the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) would like information on where the following program responsibility will be moved.

When the President declares a major disaster in the State of California, certain programs can be approved and funded; this includes the Crisis Counseling Programs (Immediate Services Program and Regular Services Program). Both are federally funded grants that are awarded to counties through the state. Currently, DMH's Disaster Services Unit has the direct responsibility of working with the interested impacted counties in preparing both grant applications. The Immediate Services Program grant has a very short application window of 14 days following the Presidential declaration, and the Regular Services Program has an application deadline of 60 days following the Presidential declaration. The process of preparing and monitoring the grant takes someone very knowledgeable in the mental health system to assist the county mental health offices in not only writing the application but also participating in site visits to ensure proper use of funding. A portion of the grant application also includes State DMH's budget and application for writing and monitoring the grant. Cal EMA has fiscal oversight while DMH administers the programs. This is a very important program that assists disaster survivors with coping with the impacts of a disaster both in the immediate aftermath of an event as well as longer term impacts. As such, it is critical to know as soon as possible what plans are being made to ensure the future of this disaster assistance program in California.

I am attaching the current Administrative Orders that directs responsibility to DMH following a disaster. The following is a summary of the specific duties from those orders:

***Department of Mental Health -specific response activities***

**Care and Shelter**

- Coordinate with local mental health agencies to provide a mental health "needs assessment" of victims and emergency response personnel.
- Provide consultation and technical assistance to local mental health agencies in the development and implementation of crisis counseling services programs for disaster victims.
- Identify and mobilize available departmental resources to support response activities through either direct service to affected counties or as support to other state agencies' emergency activities.
- Prepare a request to Federal Emergency Management Agency and Center for Mental Health Services for Crisis Counseling Program funding for California's emergency mental health response following a Presidentially declared disaster.
- Assist county mental health in assessing mental health risks to victims and emergency response personnel.
- Administer California's emergency mental health program available through Federal Emergency Management Agency and Center for Mental Health Services.

***Department of Mental Health - specific recovery activities***

Administer California's emergency mental health response in conjunction with Federal Emergency Management Agency and Center for Mental Health Services Crisis Counseling Program funding following a presidentially declared disaster.

In addition, the 44 Code of Federal Regulations gives general direction. I'm attaching a copy of the complete Section 206.171 of the 44 CFR.

Section 206.171 (b) Definitions

(5) *Grantee* means the State mental health agency or other local or private mental health organization which is designated by the Governor to receive funds under section 416 of the Act.

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